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XXV.—*On a new Owl from Java.*

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(Plate XVII.)

I HAVE lately received for examination a specimen of a new Owl from Java, which I have named after its discoverer and now diagnose as follows :—

SYRNIUM BARTELSI. (Plate XVII.)

Syrnium bartelsi Finsch, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 63 (1906).

Adult female. Upper parts uniform dark chocolate-brown, crown somewhat darker; longest upper tail-coverts with equidistant cross-bars of lighter brown; wing-coverts dark brown (like the back), the greater coverts with indistinct lighter cross-bars, which become more marked on the coverts of the secondaries; spurious wing uniform dark brown; coverts of the primaries distinctly cross-banded with light brown (the light bars as wide as the dark); the first primary uniform blackish brown, the second shewing on the basal half of the inner web brown cross-bars, which are visible also on the outer web of the third and gradually become more distinct on the remaining primaries and still more so on the secondaries; the longest primary (which is the 5th) crossed with about seventeen dark and as many light equidistant cross-bars; longest shoulder-feathers rufous on the inner web, white on the outer,

with narrow dark brown cross-bars running over both webs ; this shoulder-patch is, however, nearly hidden by the smaller dark brown shoulder-feathers, so that only a narrow longitudinal stripe is visible ; under wing-coverts rufous-buff with very narrow dark cross-bars ; greater under wing-coverts dark brown, but rufous buff on the basal half with narrow dark cross-bars ; primaries beneath dark brown, banded with rufous ochreous on the inner web, uniform ochreous towards the base, the same as the secondaries beneath, which, however, shew very narrow dark brown cross-bars ; tail-feathers black, crossed with well-marked brown bars of nearly equal width, 18 in number on the central feathers and 16 or 17 on the outer ; the latter being, on about two-thirds of the basal part of the inner web, light, nearly whitish, with dark cross-bars ; facial disk (*i. e.*, face and sinciput) warm rufous buff, surrounded by a dark chocolate-brown ruff, which becomes very narrow and obsolete below the cheeks ; eyes above broadly margined with black, the longer hair-like feathers covering the nostrils being also black ; chin chocolate-brown, followed by a band of uniform rufous buff, which extends over the sides of the neck (where it is more vivid) to the dark brown hind-neck (on the latter some feathers shew indications of light cross-bars) ; below the uniform band across the throat the rest of the under surface of the body is rufous buff or ochreous, with narrow dark brown cross-bars, which become more marked on the vent and lower tail-coverts (the dark bars everywhere narrower than the light) ; legs and toes rufous ochreous, outside of legs with narrow dark cross-lines.—Bill whitish ; nails blackish ; irides dark brown.

Long. tot. 470, al. 360, caud. 200, tars. 60, dig. med. 45, ung. 25, culm. 35 mm.

I am pleased to be able to name this remarkable new Owl after my friend Mr. Max Bartels, of Pasir Datar, that zealous student of Javan ornithology, who was so fortunate as to shoot the unique specimen on November 3rd, 1902, on Mount Pangerango (2600 feet high), in Preanger, Western Java. It forms part of the noteworthy collection "Bartels und ter

Meulen" of Amsterdam, which is especially rich in Javan birds.

As already shown in my diagnosis, this new Owl has the toes feathered as in *S. seloputo* and *S. maingayi* from Malacca, but is distinguished at once from both these species by the uniform dark brown back, and by the great number (from 16 to 18) of the cross-bars on the tail-feathers (in *S. maingayi* there being only from 10 to 12). It is also somewhat similar to *S. leptogrammicum* from Borneo, but that species is smaller, has the back with light cross-bars, and belongs to the section with naked toes.

Mr. Bartels may be congratulated on this remarkable discovery, the more so as Strigine Birds are everywhere difficult to observe and to obtain, especially in tropical forests. As regards Java, this is shown by referring to the results obtained by three of its principal ornithological explorers during many years of residence. Horsfield* (1802 to 1819) obtained specimens of eight species of Owls, six of which he described as new to science. The well-known veteran ornithologist of Java, the late Dr. A. G. Vorderman (from 1877 to 1902), got examples of only four species of Owls, whereas his zealous young follower, Mr. Max Bartels, during the last ten years has obtained (this new species included) examples of eight species, but of most of them only a few specimens. In all our museums, however, Owls from Java are rare, and consequently there are many questions relating to them to be solved, to some of which I call attention in the subjoined list. In nomenclature I follow Dr. Sharpe's 'Hand-list of Birds.' I also refer to the recent publications of Vorderman† and Bartels‡, but only for those

* "Systematic Arrangement and Description of Birds from the Island of Java," Trans. Linn. Soc. London, vol. xiii. (1822).

† "Systematisch Overzicht der Vogels welke op Java inheemsch zijn door A. G. Vorderman, van aanteekeningen voorzien door Dr. O. Finsch," Natuurk. Tijdschr. v. Ned. Ind. lx. 1901, pp. 36-155.

‡ M. E. G. Bartels, "Zur Ornithologie Javas," *op. cit.* lxi. 1902, pp. 129-172. This list enumerates 239 species obtained by the author, who in a forthcoming paper (to be published in the Journ. f. Orn.) increases the number to 309 species.

species of which specimens were actually obtained. I may add that a MS. list of Kuhl (1820-21) mentions three Owls (*Ketupa ketupa*, *Huhua orientalis*, and *Scops lempiji*, all new at that time) as collected by him near Buitenzorg.

LIST OF KNOWN JAVAN OWLS.

1. *KETUPA CEYLONENSIS* (Less.).

Ketupa ketupa (Horsf.); Sharpe, Hand-l. i. p. 281.

Ketupa ceylonensis (Less.) Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. ii. 1875, p. 8; Vorderm. l. c. p. 48 (Batavia, Salak); Bartels, l. c. p. 131 (Preanger); id. Journ. f. Orn. 1903, p. 281.

Hab. Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Malay Peninsula to S. Tenasserim.

2. *HUHUA ORIENTALIS* (Horsf.).

Huhua orientalis (Horsf.); Sharpe, l. c. p. 284.

Bubo orientalis Sharpe, Cat. B. ii. p. 39; Bartels, l. c. p. 131 (Preanger).

The distribution of this species is the same as that of the last, but includes the Island of Banka.

Schlegel recognised the Javan bird as a distinct race (*Bubo orientalis minor*), and a careful comparison of specimens from various localities seems desirable in order to settle the question whether the Javan species (or subspecies) is peculiar to the island. If so, the species from Sumatra, Borneo, and the Malay Peninsula must be called *H. sumatrana* (Raffl.).

3. *SCOPS LEMPIJI* (Horsf.).

Scops lempiji (Horsf.); Sharpe, l. c. p. 287; id. Cat. B. ii. p. 91; Vorderm. l. c. p. 48 (Batavia, Salak); Bartels, l. c. p. 131 (Preanger); id. Journ. f. Orn. 1903, p. 283.

Hab. Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Banka, Malay Peninsula, and Indo-Chinese Provinces (*Sharpe*); also the Kangean Islands (Nov. Zool. 1902, p. 428).

This species has apparently not yet been divided subspecifically, although Gurney called attention to "a large form from Sumatra" ('Ibis,' 1879, p. 470). It is the most common of the Javan Owls, and was long ago described by

Friederich von Wurmb ("De kleine Hoornuil," Verhand. van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen, iii. 1781, p. 376).

4. *SCOPS RUFESCENS* (Horsf.).

Scops rufescens (Horsf.); Sharpe, l. c. p. 287; id. Cat. B. ii. p. 102; Vorderm. l. c. p. 49 (Sumatra).

According to Sharpe, the Malay Peninsula and the Greater Sunda Islands are the localities inhabited by this species. As regards Java it may be hoped that Horsfield's type is still preserved in the British Museum; for his description is quite insufficient, and since his time only Schlegel has noticed a single specimen from "Java" (Revue, Noctuæ, p. 11. no. 4, 1873), without naming the collector. Specimens of undoubted origin are, therefore, required to settle this question.

5. *NINOX SCUTULATA* (Raffl.).

Ninox scutulata (Raffl.); Sharpe, l. c. p. 290; id. Cat. B. ii. p. 156.

Ninox borneensis Gurney, Ibis, 1879, p. 470 (Java).

This widely distributed species, with its various forms, was first noticed from Java by Gurney, but his specimen was obtained from a dealer, without the exact locality. This example is referable to the subspecies *N. borneensis*, and agrees with a specimen from Labuan (cf. *N. labuanensis* Sharpe, Cat. B. ii. p. 165).

A careful comparison of Javan specimens, therefore, seems very desirable, but a whole series is necessary. Mr. Bartels informs me that he has as yet obtained only one example of *N. scutulata* at Preanger, as this Owl seems to visit Java merely as a migrant.

6. *SYRNIUM SELOPUTO* (Horsf.).

Syrnium seloputo (Horsf.); Sharpe, l. c. p. 294.

Syrnium sinensis (Lath.); Sharpe, Cat. B. ii. p. 261; Vorderm. l. c. p. 49 (Batavia).

Dr. Hartert kindly informs me that Horsfield's type-specimen of this Owl is still in the British Museum, and seems to be identical with the bird generally called "*Syrnium*

sinense (Lath.), from the "Greater Sunda Islands, Malay Peninsula, and Indo-Chinese Provinces." Specimens from Java are very rare in collections.

7. *SYRNIUM BARTELSI*, Finsch.

Java.

8. *GLAUCIDIUM CASTANOPTERUM* (Horsf.).

Glaucidium castanopterum (Horsf.) ; Sharpe, l. c. p. 299 ; id. Cat. B. ii. p. 216.

This is another very rare species, of which Mr. Bartels has as yet procured only one specimen. It is not peculiar to Java, being also found on Bali (*Doherty* ; Hart. Nov. Zool. 1896, p. 552).

9. *PHOTODILUS BADIUS* (Horsf.).

Photodilus badius (Horsf.) ; Sharpe, l. c. p. 300.

Phodilus badius Sharpe, Cat. B. ii. p. 309.

Since Horsfield's time Mr. Bartels seems to be the only collector who has obtained this beautiful Owl in Java (a single specimen at Preanger, November, 1901). There is no example from that island in the Leyden Museum. It is a widely distributed species—Eastern Himalayas, Burmah, Assam, Pegu, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Borneo ; also on Nias and Bali (*Doherty*).

10. *STRIX JAVANICA* Gm.*

Strix javanica (Gm.) ; Sharpe, l. c. p. 300.

Strix flammea, pt., Sharpe, Cat. B. ii. p. 301.

"*Strix flammea*, β . *javanica* Gml." ; Vorderm. l. c. p. 49 (Batavia) ; Bartels, l. c. p. 131 (Preanger).

Dr. Sharpe gives the geographical range of this Owl as follows:—Indian Peninsula, Indo-Chinese Provinces, Greater and Lesser Sunda Islands.

Dr. Hartert, noticing its occurrence on the Kangean Islands, says : "*S. flammea javanica* is very different from the North European *S. flammea flammea*. The nearest form to it is apparently the African *S. flammea maculata*, Brehm

* Based on "De Nachtuil van Java," described by Friederich von Wurmb in Verh. Bat. Gen. v. Kunsten en Wetenschappen, iv. 1782, p. 253.

(from Khartoum)" (Nov. Zool. 1902, p. 428). *Strix flammea* from Kalao, a small island south of Celebes, will probably be referable to *S. flammea javanica* (Hartert, ib. 1896, p. 177). On the other hand, the same savant says of a specimen from Sumba, "this bird does not seem separable from *S. flammea typica*" (ib. 1896, p. 588), but soon afterwards it was given subspecific rank (*S. flammea sumbaensis* Hart. ib. 1897, p. 270). This is a good instance of the difficulty of determining the various subspecies or forms of Barn-Owls.

P.S.—Since I wrote this paper I have received the following additional note from Mr. Max Bartels:—

"The capture of this fine Owl I owe, singularly enough, wholly to some Drongos (*Dicrurus longus*). Observing some of these birds chasing an Owl, which I took at first for a Fishing-Owl (*Ketupa*), not uncommon hereabouts, the perseverance of their attacks induced me to follow them. Led by the loudly crying Drongos I easily found the Owl, hidden in the thick foliage of a tree, and shot it. At a glance I saw that it was of a species not yet obtained by me, undoubtedly new to Java, and perhaps also to science.

"The stomach contained only a few remains of large beetles."

XXVI.—On the Birds collected in Transcaucasia by

Mr. A. M. Kobylin. By S. A. BUTURLIN.

DURING the past three years Mr. A. M. Kobylin has been accustomed to send to me for identification the bird-skins obtained by him in Transcaucasia, and he has now kindly given his consent to the publication of my notes concerning them. The collection was made partly in the western portion of Transcaucasia—near Kutais and in the Lower Rion Valley, and partly in the central portion of Transcaucasia—near Akhalzikh (Tiflitz Government) and near Ssuram (Tiflitz Gov., Gori Distr.). A list of birds from the last-named



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Exe. & Danneberg L. imp

STERNUM DANNEBERG